

KP

Bladine, Mary

M E M O R A N D U M

*Internal
Circular*

March 10, 1964

TO: Mr. Joseph A. Bell
Mr. David F. Bellin

FROM: John B. Gilbert Jr.
Bob W. Griffin

SUBJECT: The testimony of Mary Bladine and William James Cowell.

1. Mary Bladine. In light of our memorandum of March 6, 1964, and our previous conversations with respect to Earlene Roberts, Mrs. Bladine should be carefully examined to ascertain the following:

a. Whether or not Oswald's pattern of activities as a roomer while at the Bladine house differ in any particular respect from his pattern of activities as described by Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Johnson at 1026 N. Beckley.

b. Any information Mrs. Bladine may have as to how Oswald happened to locate the room at 1026 N. Beckley. (General impression that some people have that Oswald found the room at 1026 N. Beckley through a newspaper advertisement or sign posted inconsistent with the statement of Mrs. Johnson that, when Oswald first inquired concerning a room, she told him she had none available, except for the room next to Mrs. Polk's which she ordinarily did not rent, but that when he returned a second time, she agreed to make it available.)

c. Whether or not Mrs. Bladine knew of any difficulties that Oswald was experiencing finding another place to live.

d. Whether or not Mrs. Bladine had communicated her dissatisfaction or knowledge of Oswald to any other persons including, especially, owners who operated rooming houses.

e. Whether Mrs. Bladine was at any time aware of Oswald's background prior to the assassination of President Kennedy.

f. The familiarity of rooming house operators in the City of Dallas with one another and Mrs. Bladine's acquaintanceship with Mrs. and Mrs. Johnson, Earlene Roberts, and any other persons whom she may specify, (especially Bertha Cheeks) who operate boarding houses. In this regard, it would not be wise to specifically mention the name of Bertha Cheeks.

g. Whether or not Mrs. Blodace knew or wrote to any persons who are employees or patrons of the Carousel Club or who are friends or associates of Jack Ruby, or who are employees or patrons of the Vegas Club. Also, friends of George Sauer, Ralph Paul, or Jim Grant.

h. Any interviews she may have had on TV or radio, including the date, time, person and station doing the interviewing, place of the interview and approximate time that the interview was shown on TV or heard on radio.

i. Her own activities in detail from the time she saw Oswald on November 2nd until Ruby shot Oswald. The purpose of this would be to ascertain how the police came to know about her, the extent to which her testimony may now be colored by pressure from Gravelin, the police, or the press and to provide a standard of comparison against the conduct of Berlene Roberts after the shooting of President Kennedy.

j. All of her rooming house records covering the period September 26, to late. The purpose here is to enable us to ascertain whether anyone who lived at the Blodace house that Oswald did could form a link either to Ruby or to the 1076 N. Beckley house.

k. Oswald's habits with respect to telephone calls; eating and drinking (including any places like, Medina Inn or where he can eat); and his dress. (There is evidence that Oswald had occasion to have a white shirt washed, and a tie and a pair of pants pressed which would indicate that while he was working at the Schoolbook Depository, he was enjoying some night life or visiting under circumstances where it would be necessary to have some sort of semi-formal attire); his habits with respect to buying or reading newspapers (in this regard if Oswald was not observed to buy newspapers at his landlord's residence, it would indicate that he had access to and was reading them either at work or at the home of some associate, since Oswald seems to us to have been a person who would keep himself informed definitely. If the people at the Schoolbook Depository did not verify to his habit of reading a newspaper, there would be a strong indication that Oswald did make the practice of spending some time every day away from his boarding house and job with other people).

l. William George Whaley. Whaley has stated that he was acquainted with Jack Ruby prior to Ruby's killing Oswald. Although we do not suspect that Whaley may be linked to Ruby in any kind of conspiratorial plot, his knowledge of Ruby suggests that, if Ruby were involved in any sort of plot wherein Oswald were to be a dupe, a small criminal group might have used Harry Crawford (who many persons might erroneously think of as a delinquent, druggy, or that Crawford himself may be the real assassin) and that, fortuitously, both Crawford and Oswald happened to take out passes. In that regard, it might be considered that an assassin or conspirator, in a plot to assassinate the President who was not detained from his meeting in the Schoolbook Depository, as was Oswald, might very well have arranged a car at 12:30 PM making the trip that Whaley claims Oswald took. To gain more evidence with respect to this possibility, investigation should be undertaken by:

a. Carefully questioning Whaley with respect to his identification of Oswald including questioning as to identifying scars, marks, cuts, which might distinguish between Oswald and Greford or any other persons who may resemble Oswald.

b. A check of taxi company record to ascertain whether or not any persons were picked up in the Oak Cliff - Jack Ruby residential area and driven to the vicinity of the Carousel Club between 12:30 and 1:30 PM on November 22nd.

c. An examination of bus schedules in the Jack Ruby - Oak Cliff residential area to determine possibility of picking up a bus to return to the Carousel Club before 1:30 PM.

Note: With reference to the lines of inquiry suggested by a, b, and c above, we are aware that the Dallas Police records indicate that Oswald admitted that he had taken a taxi ride or Whaley says he did, nevertheless, there remains the possibility that Whaley's passenger was Greford and not Oswald, and that therefore the Dallas Police record is incorrect or that Oswald admitted the episode only after being told about it or in an effort to further complicate the situation or that both Oswald and Greford took taxi rides, but in fact Greford was Whaley's passenger.

d. Melrose and Whaley together with all other governmental witnesses should be asked the general question whether anyone has given them information concerning Jack Ruby, Lee Harvey, or associates of either one. If the answer is in the affirmative, the witness should then be interviewed after testifying before the Commission to gather all information that may have been passed on to that person, including the source of such information and approximate time the information was provided.